

REMARKS

In the Office Action, Claims 1-24 were rejected on the ground of non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-35 of U.S. Patent Application 10/762,027 (now U.S. Patent No. 7,019,180). Submitted herewith is a Terminal Disclaimer for the present application. In view thereof, Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection. The Commissioner for Patents is herewith authorized to charge a Terminal Disclaimer fee of \$130, corresponding to the amount stated under 37 CFR 1.20(d), to Deposit Account 19-1800. Likewise, the Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge to this Deposit Account any other amount incurred by the present response, or to credit this Deposit Account for any over payment.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-21 were rejected under Section 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zakoshansky in view of GB 676,770. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following comments, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Independent Claims 1, 11 and 17 are each directed to a method for purifying a phenol product stream which is derived from a mixed feed of cumene and sec-butyl benzene. Accordingly, the product stream will have many more contaminants when compared to a phenol product stream prepared from a single alkyl benzene.

The Zakoshansky reference is directed to a method for purification of phenol produced from cumene. GB 676,770 is directed to a process for phenol production primarily from cumene. While this reference does teach that other alkyl benzenes such as sec-butyl benzene can be utilized, it does not disclose nor suggest the production of phenol from a mixture of cumene and sec-butyl benzene.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 11 and 17, and the claims dependent therefrom, are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are therefore in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, Claims 22-24 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over FR 1,445,829. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

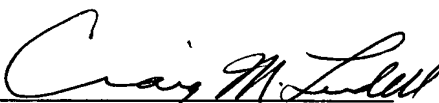
Claims 22-24 are directed to a method of making a high purity phenol product from a mixed feed comprising cumene and sec-butyl benzene. FR 1,445,829 is directed to a process for the purification of phenol prepared by the cumene method. Again, this reference suggests

that other aromatic alkyl hydrocarbons can be used to produce phenol. However, it does not teach nor suggest producing phenol from a mixture of cumene and sec-butyl benzene nor the purification of a phenol product stream produced from such a mixture. Accordingly, Claims 22 and 24 are believed to be patentable over the cited reference.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and favorable consideration by the Examiner is requested. Should the Examiner find any impediment to the allowance of the claims which could be corrected by a telephone interview with the undersigned, the Examiner is requested to initiate such an interview.

Respectfully submitted,

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